

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 AF-10 EA-10 HA-05 BIB-01  
TRSE-00 MCT-01 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 /153 W  
-----025226 051126Z /17

R 050713Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9353  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2973

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SOPN, SF, UR, RO

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA: IN RE ROMANIA

REF: JIDDA 3338

1. WE READ REFTTEL WITH INTEREST AND WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT  
BRIEFLY FROM BUCHAREST PERSPECTIVE.

2. LARI'S POINT THAT ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CAREFUL  
LEST CONSTRUCTIVE ROMANIAN ACTIVITY IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE  
PROCESS BLIND THEM TO BASICALLY HOSTILE POLICIES OF USSR  
IS WELL TAKEN ONLY IF ONE CANNOT BRING HIMSELF  
TO REGARD VARIOUS EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES AS SEPARATE  
ENTITIES WITH THEIR OWN DISTINCT NATIONAL INTERESTS.  
ADMITTEDLY, IN MOST RESPECTS, IT IS STILL MOST PRUDENT  
COURSE TO VIEW USSR AS A SCHEMING FAGAN AND THE STATES  
OF EASTERN EUROPE AS THE HAPLESS MINIONS, BUT EVEN IN  
THE SINISTER DICKENSIAN CONTEXT, ROMANIA IS CHARACTER  
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CLOSEST TO AN OLIVER TWIST.

3. ROMANIA CONSIDERS ITSELF A "NON-ALIGNED COMMUNIST STATE"  
AND CHAFES THAT IT CANNOT BE SHED OF THE FORMAL TIES OF  
ALLIANCE THAT, IRONICALLY, BIND IT TO ITS MAJOR POTENTIAL  
ADVERSARY AND COMPROMISE ITS STANDING IN EYES OF SOME OF  
THOSE WITH WHOM IT WOULD MAKE COMMON CAUSE AGAINST BLOCK

RIGIDITIES AND SPHERES OF INFLUENCE. IN PURSUIT OF ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS, ROMANIA SUBSCRIBES WHOLEHARTEDLY TO ANTI-HEGEMONY APPROACH OF THE PRC, WITH WHOM ITS RELATIONS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE CORDIAL THAN WITH THE USSR. THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO PRETENSE THAT GA POLITICAL REALITIES ARE NOT AN INHIBITING FACTOR, BUT, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, ROMANIA DISTANCES ITSELF FROM ALLIANCE CONNECTIONS EVEN IN SUCH EUROPEAN FORA AS CSCE AND MBFR. BEHIND CAREFULLY MAINTAINED FACADE OF FRATERNITY, ROMANIA SEEKS TO BALANCE USSR WITH USA AND PRC TO ENSURE ITSELF GREATEST POSSIBLE LATITUDE IN BOTH STATE AND PARTY AFFAIRS. ROMANIA--SELF-APPOINTED APOSTLE OF SUCH DOCTRINES AS EQUALITY OF STATES IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, EQUALITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF PARTIES WITHIN "SOCIALIST" FRATERNITY, STRICT NON-INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS ON ANY PLANE AND RENUNCIATION OF USE AND THREAT OF FORCE--IS MOST IMPROBABLE CANDIDATE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SOVIET PENETRATION ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. IT STRIKES US THAT SOVIET UNION IS NO MORE IN NEED OF A ROMANIAN INTERMEDIARY WITH ARABS THAN IS US AND PRC.

4. "FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL, WITHOUT REGARD TO SOCIAL SYSTEMS" IS BY-WORD IN ROMANIAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND HAS LED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH 130 GOVERNMENTS AND OVER 100 NON-COMMUNIST POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS WITH SIX NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, SUCH AS PLO. SUSPICIONS SUCH AS THOSE VOICED BY LARI

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HAVE SO FAR FRUSTRATED ROMANIAN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT "GODLESS COMMUNISM" IS AN UNCOMPROMISING FORCE WITHIN ROMANIA, BUT EXTERNALLY NATIONAL INTEREST IS PERCEIVED IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT AND CALLS FOR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH REGIMES AS DIVERSE AS THOSE OF ALGERIA AND IRAN, PARTIES AS DIVERSE AS "EUROCOMMUNISTS" AND CONSERVATIVES, AND AN INDEPENDENT STANCE ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS NEUTRON BOMB. AS THE SAUDIS' KUWAITI BROTHERS COULD TESTIFY, ROMANIANS ARE NEITHER EASY NOR PLEASANT TO DEAL WITH: THEY CAN HAGGLE AND IMPORTUNE IN BEST BAZAAR TRADITION. KUWAITIS COULD ALSO TESTIFY THAT WHATEVER CHICANERY ROMANIANS MAY PRACTICE, IT IS IN THEIR OWN SELFISH INTERESTS AND NOT IN THOSE OF THIRD PARTIES--MOST PARTICULARLY USSR, WHOSE PENETRATION INTO AREAS SUCH AS HORN OF AFRICA IS ONLY SOMEWHAT LESS UNSETTLING TO THEM THAN TO SAUDIES.

AGGREY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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